NCA
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LINDA CASHDAN

VOA CONSULTANT ON WOMEN'S VOTE
(NUMBER 3 IN ELECTION NIGHT SPECIAL FEATURES)
TAPE INSERTS IN LIBRARY

ANNCR:

DOCTOR ARTHUR MILLER, DIRECTOR OF THE ELECTION STUDIES UNIT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, WAS ON HAND AT THE VOA STUDIOS HERE IN WASHINGTON DURING ELECTION NIGHT. HIS ORGANIZATION AT ANN ARBOR HAS JUST FINISHED A VOTER SURVEY THAT IS PART OF AN EFFORT DESIGNED TO FIND OUT HOW AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT THEIR GOVERNMENT AND THE ELECTION ISSUES. WE ASKED HIM ABOUT A RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON IN AMERICAN POLITICS: THE GROWING ROLE OF WOMEN'S VOTES.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- MILLER

"THERE ARE SOME INTERESTING THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON. THERE'S BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE OVER ALL PARTICIPATION RATE OF WOMEN OVER THE YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PAST 10 YEARS. AND MOST OF THAT INCREASE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT MANY MORE WOMEN ARE OUT WORKING AND TAKING AN OCCUPATIONAL ROLE, AND THIS SORT OF BRINGS THEM INTO A WIDER FRAMEWORK, AND THEY FEEL THAT THEY WANT TO GET OUT AND THEY WANT TO PARTICIPATE AND THAT IS THE NORM THAT IS CHANGING. IT'S REALLY INTERESTING BECAUSE I THINK A LOT OF WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY WERE TURNED OFF OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN TERMS OF ITS TACTICS, AND YET THEY ARE VERY POSITIVE TOWARDS THE GOALS OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT. THEY WANT EQUAL RIGHTS. THEY WANT EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. THEY WANT OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE JOBS, AND THEY SIMPLY WANT TO BE PERCEIVED AS BEING EQUAL TO MEN IN MANY WAYS IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO DO THIS IN A RADICAL FASHION, THEY WANT TO DO IT GRADUALLY."

VOICE:

WOMEN MAKE UP WELL OVER HALF THE VOTING POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES. THAT WOULD MAKE THEM A POTENTIALLY POWERFUL VOTING BLOCK. IF THEY VOTED AS A BLOCK.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- MILLER

"IT'S DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT THE WOMAN'S VOTE. IT'S NOT A VOTING BLOCK IN THE SAME SENSE THAT BLACKS ARE A VOTING BLOCK, OR JEWS ARE A VOTING BLOCK. WE DON'T RALLY HAVE ANY WOMEN WHO ARE TRYING TO APPEAL ONLY TO THE WOMEN. I THINK THAT THEY ARE GOING OUT AND THEY'RE VOTING AT A HIGHER RATE TODAY THAN THEY HAVE IN THE PAST AND THEY'RE PARTICIPATING MORE AND WOMEN ARE ACTUALLY MOVING INTO MANY MORE OFFICES, NOT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL BUT CERTAINLY AT OTHER LEVELS AND THEY'RE MOVING INTO THE PARTY STRUCTURE WHICH IS INTERESTING BECAUSE THEY VIEW THAT AS A WAY OF MOVING INTO THE POWER STRUCTURE AND HAVING AN EFFECT."

VOICE:

SOME VIEWS OF DOCTOR ARTHUR MILLER, AN ELECTION STUDIES SPECIALIST FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

RK/RCS